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Aruba Hospitality & Security Foundation closes another successful international conference

Tuesday and Wednesday, June 5 and 6, the Westin Aruba Resort hosted the 4th edition of the bi-annual Caribbean Tourism Security Conference, conducted by the award-winning Aruba Hospitality & Security Foundation. Organizers welcomed seven experts in the field of law enforcement and tourism security, but individuals who have actually been in the "front lines" during incidents that adversely affected the economic base of small nations strongly dependent on tourism.

Continued on page 2



AH&SF President Roland Peterson and Bruce Whitney

Ban: Heavy weapons, drones, gunfire used against UN in Syri

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) - Heavy weapons, armor-piercing bullets and surveillance drones have been used against UN observers in Syria to hamper their efforts to monitor the worsening conflict, UN leader Ban Ki-moon told a Security Council meeting yesterday.

Diplomats inside a closed council briefing on Syria quoted Ban as saying the tactics had been used to try to force the unarmed monitors to withdraw from areas where government forces have been accused of staging attacks.

Ban said the heavy shelling had been used to deter a UN Supervision Mission in Syria (UNSMIS) convoy, drones had monitored the movements of observers and the armor-piercing bullets had been fired at UNSMIS vehicles.

According to UN officials, UN vehicles are shot at almost every day in Syria.

Ban told the 15-nation council that UN observers had seen Syrian military convoys approaching villages and tried to stop tank assaults against populated areas, but had been "ignored".

Ban and UN-Arab League envoy Kofi Annan briefed the Security Council only hours



Ban Ki-moon

after a new massacre in Syria in which dozens of people were reported killed. Ban said shots were fired at the UN convoy which tried to get into the village of Al-Kubeir.

Ban said that according to preliminary evidence, the Syrian army had surrounded the village and militia had entered Al-Kubeir and killed civilians with "barbarity", according to diplomats at the meeting.

With the peace plan floundering, Annan wants the west, Russia and China to join together to increase pressure on Assad to start talks on a process that would eventually force him out of power, according to diplomats.

Annan is considering proposing that Iran, Turkey and Saudi Arabia join the perma-

nent members of the Security Council -- Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States -- in the group, The Washington Post and Le Monde reported.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov has called for a meeting on similar lines.

Russia, Syria's major international ally, has protected Assad from action at the UN Security Council and most western nations see President Vladimir Putin as the key to applying any effective pressure.

Russia and China have vetoed two council resolutions that merely hinted at sanctions.

"We need to bind Russia into some sort of transition strategy on Syria," said one UN diplomat, who highlighted the growing contacts with Russia.

Putin has been in Paris, Berlin and Beijing in the past week. US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton has had talks with Lavrov, and Britain's Foreign Secretary William Hague has also been to Moscow.

Key leaders are expected to hold a meeting on Syria on the sidelines of the Group of 20 summit in Los Cabos, Mexico on June 18-19.

The Chambers views on the pros and cons of wind energy



See coverage on page 3

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Aruba Hospitality & Security Foundation closes another successful international conference

Aruba's Minister of Tourism, Transport & Labor, Otmar Oduber, officially welcomed delegates from several Caribbean nations, along with President of Parliament, Paul Croes. AH&SF President Roland Peterson opened the event by reminding the gathering they would be listening to some "very, very special persons, who have been "there," sharing their concerns and experiences with us."

"To the men and women in uniform," he continued, "There are a lot of professions that have similar risk, but you go to work knowing there are people out there who target you for the uniform that you wear, and the ideals you stand for. Not because of who you are, but what you represent, this is very noble and we thank you."

"The oath that you took is the catalyst that binds you to the foundations of our government and to the principals of constitution. You stand for the colleagues that have gone before you and the legacy they have left you. You made an oath to serve and protect to the best of your ability. This is your job, which is one reason why you are so special, but you are not above the law or those you serve."

"All who serve must under-

stand this, your job is to protect this country and its people; think about that every day when you start your shift. The badge you wear pinned close to your heart is the symbol of trust. Every day when you look in the mirror or pass your hand over this badge, you must ask yourself, "Am I going to earn trust today?" If you can answer "Yes," then you are ready for your job," he concluded.



Dr. Peter Tarlow

Dr. Peter Tarlow, an international security consultant who has been a asset to the conferences from the very first, opened the presentations speaking on "The Impact of Economic Insecurity on the Caribbean Tourism Sector." Joining him as a speaker for the first time was his son Nathaniel, addressing "Inter-

national Hospitality Law and Tourism."



Dr. Tom Marrs

Other guest speakers were Dr. Tom Marrs, an expert on applied psychology, lecturing on "The Psychology of Gangs and Violence; Understanding them from the Inside and How to Deal with them."



Greg Mullen

Chief of the Charleston Police Department, Greg Mullen, is a retired air force veteran actively engaged in developing technology capabilities that enhance gathering, analyzing and sharing information and intelligence with the purpose of improving the ability to be pro-active and responsive to criminal activity. His topic was "Event Security and Gangs."

Dr. Bruce Whitney opened the second day of presentations, describing his experience with the SARS Epidemic of 2003 and its devastating ef-

fects on Hong Kong's tourism, while promoting awareness of the circumstances that can create such a situation in regards to "Tourism Security and Issues of Health."

He was followed by Dr. Richard Feenstra, an expert in organizational psychology and event risk management. A U.S. Army veteran and former police officer, he spoke on "Security and Safety as Monitors-How to Utilize Security Staff to also Monitor for Safety Issues." His talk included handling guests during emergency evacuations.



Dr. Richard Feenstra

police officer for more than 34 years, and former Director of the Canadian Police Sector Council, he was appointed Deputy Commissioner of Police with the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service in 2010, bringing his expertise in law enforcement to the Caribbean.

Roland Peterson expressed he was very well satisfied with attendance and interest in this year's conference, expressing thanks to the Aruba Tourism Authority, Aruba Hotel and Tourism Association, Westin Hotel for their support and particularly CMB Bank for "stepping up to the plate and funding the event." He also expressed kudos to AH & SF Dario Soemers for all his hard work in organizing this year's conference.

by Rosalie Klein

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The Chambers views on the pros and cons of wind energy

In view of the recent turbulence regarding the setting up of wind Mills at the Uirama area, the Aruba Chamber of Commerce & Industry (KVK) considers it prudent to examine the issues from all angles in order to arrive at a balanced and carefully researched opinion.

The Chamber has chosen to focus on the economic and technical viability of the project. In order to place this into perspective, it is necessary to have answers to several questions: what is the actual results of the Vader Piet installation, as the results of that project should serve as an example for the Uirama project. Publically, we have no real information of the economic results of the Vader Piet project; although, some information was divulged on that project during the Social Dialogue of last year.

We can conclude that an average of Afls.0.18 per kWh that WEB NV is paying for electricity from the investors of the wind mills enables them to make a decent return on their investment. They apparently will achieve a payback on investment within a relatively short period.

The question that was raised back then was: why was the reduced price for electricity from the wind park never passed on to the consumer? The answer to that question was that the benefit of the reduced electricity price from the wind mills was used to absorb the increase in the price of electricity according to WEB and ELMAR. The utility companies claim that the price of electricity to consumers would have increased even more were it not for the wind mills.

The Chamber asserts that the reason for their answer is that the price of fuel peaked drastically. The KVK also asserts that it is reasonable to conclude that this will be the case with an eventual new wind mill park. They then surmised that this new park will not help to bring down the price to the consumer in view of the future development on the international market with respect to petroleum.

The Chamber envisions another favorable economic perspective for the financiers of this second wind mill park, reason why both the government and WEB NV and the financing company are so

anxious to get going on the project. The Chamber then raised the question, if the only perspective is a favorable one, why doesn't WEB NV take on the Project themselves? It would seem that that would be far more economical and would reduce the cost to consumers. The savings of not having to share the profit with so many others, ELMAR, the developers and their own cofers would significantly benefit the consumer.

With respect to some technical aspects, the Chamber understands that the primary reason for placing the second set of wind mills at Uirama is because of wind characteristics in an effort to guarantee a better distribution network and stability. They are led to believe that the possibility for the wind to drop at both locations simultaneously is very unlikely. Hence, that will facilitate the management of the balance in the system of the distribution of electricity. You will avoid a situation where both parks would fall out at the same time. This, they can understand is important because to manage a sudden fallout of about 40% would be quite a

challenge with all the risks of instability in the distribution.

Solar energy as an alternative?

The question raised by the Chamber is why has WEB not given more priority to other alternatives, for example to solar energy? This would have been very good since the majority of the experts agree that energy from a renewable source functions best in an adequate mix. This would compensate for the

disadvantages that both systems have: fluctuating winds, and sun is available when there is sunshine.

These days there are items in the news about Germany, with a population of over 80 million that has recently reached an 80% production of their energy needs from the sun. They have put a tremendous distribution net in place to service consumers all across the country.

Continued on page 4



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Pointers to Ponder

Tony A.D. Green www.people-self-development.com

Aruba going green....why wind energy....and at what price?

It is no mistake...Aruban citizens are intent on going green! The government is pushing ahead on greening the island, and businesses and households are following suit. As a matter of fact, the community at large is much more zealous about alternative energy than the government could ever be. The reason for this is more than obvious...we are paying through our noses for electricity!

A. Praise for Government Efforts:

We continue to applaud the efforts towards a green island by the government. There is a sincere drive from the government to utilize alternative energy sources for the island. And, they deserve high praise for this endeavor. The only problem is, those in the know...truly in the know, are questioning the government's apparent chosen direction of alternative energy sources. Research has indicated that while wind energy is an excellent choice for energy...and has been the choice for several countries in the past decade, it has proven to be much less esthetic to the environment and much more expensive to operate and maintain. Towering windmills are unsightly to most panoramic, picturesque landscapes and can be obno-



xiously noisy, even at very low decibels.

B. Power Factor Problems:

What's more, because of Power Factor problems the cost of operation is considerably more than it should be; hence the ROI is far less. The annual report of Aqualectra (Curacao) reported that every year more than the year's production of Aruba's Vader Piet Wind Park is lost because of the Power Factor (net corrosion) problems.

By the way, it has been reported that the "savings bulbs" included in ELMAR's "Hunto Nos Ta Spaar" give away bags, are not allowed to be sold in China because of the very same low 0.44 Power Factor of these particular bulbs! Here they are trumped up as tremendous energy savers!

C. Pungent Two Questions:

The real question in my mind is ...have our experts sat down and delineated a specific, carefully thought out energy plan for Aruba for the

short, medium, and long term? Still another even more crucial question, why has the Aruba government not implemented a legal energy mandate for our utility companies...for the island...ten years ago?

In my view, it should not be ELMAR's nor WEB's nor Utilities N.V.s' prerogative to decide which direction we ought to go in terms of our energy philosophy for Aruba. Their input is necessary and must be welcomed, but ultimately it is the government's responsibility to enact a clear, specific, sensible and cost-effective mandate as to what ought to be Aruba's energy program. It is the government who must diligently and objectively research all the options and bench mark the best practices to implement in Aruba.

With all due respect, from my perspective, it would appear that our decision to build not one, but two wind mill parks was not a very cost-effective decision for Aruba. An energy efficient approach with a Power Factor problem such as is common to windmill parks and where oil companies and windpark financiers suck money out of your economy can never be a wise decision.

Continued on page 5



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The Chambers views on the pros and cons

Continued from page 3

Check out the Chambers website for more information on Germany's energy program: www.arubachamber.com/globalnews

In Aruba our climactic conditions (much more sun) than in Germany, makes our situation more favorable than Germany and offers a better

perspective for excellent profitability.

The argument against solar is the same, and that is that the expenses to maintain the reserve capacity is too much, the so-called "spinning reserve" is too costly. This is indeed a matter for attention since the consumer is the one who will have to carry the cost for the reserve. But the reality is that because the drastic increase in the cost of the price of fuel and the relationship between that and your fixed expenses (initial investment, cost of maintenance and renovations) and the variable expenses (fuel changes) has changed considerably.

All in all the Chamber believes that a better and more concerted intent, meeting of the minds, should be exercised to ensure that what we do would be the very best for the island and especially for the consumer. And, they are of the opinion that we have not done this kind of due diligence....at least it would appear so, according to the Chambers perspective of what has transpired thus far so far as their knowledge goes.



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Aruba going green...

Continued from page 4

D. Particular Emphasis on Wind Energy:

Back in 2005 it was reported in Newsweek that 0.03 percent of the world's energy was supplied by solar panels...some 4.5 gigawatts. About one third of these solar panels were erected in Germany.

Why have we chosen for such a concentration on wind energy, when all the research and the experts both in Europe and in America are strongly advising against investing in costly windmill parks!

What's more, Aruba is not being told the whole truth about wind energy!

The cost price for wind energy is considerably higher than the cost price for solar energy! The primary purpose of the American DOE Solar Energy Technologies Program is to reduce the cost of solar energy production so as to compete with other conventional energy sources, to include wind energy. Currently on Aruba, solar panel installations are being installed for 12 to 14 dollar cents per kWh in the commercial sector. While, it is reported that the cost price for wind energy ...the Vader Piet system, is around 30 dollar cents per kWh. We don't know if this is separate from the transport cost and ELMAR's distribution cost. If we have to factor those costs in, you get a picture of the high cost of wind energy. And, to date, no body is telling us exactly how much we the people have benefitted directly from the Vader Piet installation! Don't tell us that we will benefit later on, because that is far from the truth when you read this next paragraph!

E. Propelling Cost of Wind Energy:

From the research, readily available to anyone who wants to take the time to look



it up, it is expected that within the next THREE years, by 2015, wind energy in Aruba will be about 5 times more expensive than solar energy!

Ironically, in Germany, where there is about 50% less sunny days than in Aruba (almost 100% sunny days here), they have 5 times more sun energy installations (solar panels) than wind energy ... those unsightly towering, noisy wind towers.

Why should we even consider wind energy, when all the experts, the true objective experts both in Europe and in the USA are saying ...you are much better off building solar panels. They are practically unseen if built on roof tops, they are clean, virtually maintenance free, no Co2 emissions, have long-life expectancy (+30 years), can be weather resistant, noise free, can be installed by any novice. And, they can be purchased at reasonable prices compared to the price of a windmill.

Why consider wind energy when we have a virtual nuclear reactor above our heads in the clear open sky with an over and never-ending abundance of totally free energy waiting to be harnessed!

To the windmill financiers ...“you can fool some of the people some of the time, but you can't fool all of the people all the time!”

If this article was helpful, please let me know: tony-green.morningnews@hotmail.com



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Ronald and Michelle Ackerman honored by ATA at the Divi Village Beach Resort

Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring a very nice couple, who are loyal and friendly visitors of Aruba. At their home away from home, the Divi Village Beach Resort, Mr. Ronald and Mrs. Michelle Ackerman were honored as Distinguished Visitors of Aruba. The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 10 to 19 consecutive years.

Ronald and Michelle say they love Aruba very much, because of the friendly people, the safety, the nice climate, beautiful beaches, wide variety of restaurants and the comfort and familiarity of the island.

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TUESDAY AND FRIDAY: LIVE MUSIC

International News

Romney outraises Obama in May dash for cash

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Republican Mitt Romney has outraised President Barack Obama for the first time in the White House race, with the challenger raking in more than \$76 million, campaign figures showed Thursday.

Obama, who proved himself a fundraising juggernaut during his presidential run four years ago, raised "more than \$60 million" in May along with the Democratic National Committee and local committees, the campaign said in a Twitter message.

That's a monthly record for the president's 2012 re-election bid, but the fact that Romney shot past him on the fundraising front suggests the dash for campaign cash over the coming months will be fiercely competitive ahead of November's polls.

It also shows Romney is unmistakably on a roll since becoming the all-but-certain nominee more than one month ago.

Romney's camp said he and the Republican National Committee raised \$76.8 million in May, and they have \$107 million in cash on hand.

It also was quick to suggest Democrats might be turning on Obama and donating to Romney.

Polls show a tight race, with many putting Obama just a few percentage points ahead of his challenger in national surveys, often within the margin of error.

Romney's campaign said 93 percent of the May donations - more than 297,000 of them - were of \$250 or less, and came from all 50 states and the capital Washington. Those small donations raised \$12 million out of the total.

Obama pulled in far more individual donors, however, at 572,000, with 98 percent of them donating less than \$250.

More than 2.2 million people have donated to Obama's re-election bid, the campaign

said on Obama's official Twitter feed.

The president raised \$43 million in April, a drop from the \$53 million he raised in March, while Romney brought in \$40.1 million in April, nearing parity with Obama.

These monthly amounts do not, however, take into account contributions from political interest groups called "super-PACs," which can raise and spend unlimited funds to support candidates, although they cannot directly fund a campaign.

Experts say Romney appears to be benefiting more from the new rules, with wealthy conservatives funneling huge sums into outside groups that support his agenda.

Fundraising is vital to US presidential elections, when candidates criss-cross the country for months and roll out several advertising campaigns, spending hundreds of millions of dollars in the process.

Dutch Queen Beatrix to visit Turkey



ANKARA (AFP) - Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands

is to visit Turkey on June 13-15 to mark four centuries of diplomatic relations between the two countries, a Dutch embassy source said on Thursday. The queen, who will be accompanied by Dutch Foreign Minister Uri Rosenthal, will arrive in Ankara to a welcome from President Abdullah Gul and a state banquet before flying to Istanbul the next day. In Istanbul, she will meet students and academics, and also attend a cultural activity.

Three killed, 10 injured in Italy gas blast



Italian coroners office staff carry away the body of one of the victims

CONVERSANO (AFP) - An Italian-Dutch couple and their son were killed and 10 more people were injured in Italy on Thursday when a gas explosion reduced two buildings in the southern town of Conversano to rubble.

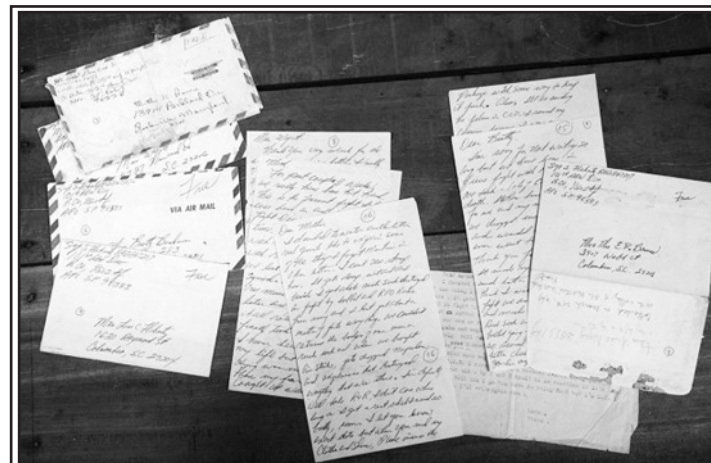
The blast struck the first floor of the house where the victims were staying and was so powerful that it brought down the house next door and spread a stench of gas around the old centre of the town in the Apulia region.

The Italian husband and his Dutch wife had arrived on holiday from the Netherlands with their 18-month-old son two days ago and had been due to return on Thursday. All three were found still wearing their pyjamas.

The cousin of the Italian victim said the building belonged to her father who had bought it for when his children came on holiday.

The town's mayor, Giuseppe Lovascio, told reporters he had tried calling the mobile phone of one of the victims but "it just rang and rang."

Firefighters could be seen clambering over the rubble with sniffer dogs for hours before the bodies were found as excavators cleared away masonry.



HANOI, Vietnam: The personal letters of US Army Sergeant Steve Flaherty, who was killed in action in 1969, rest on a table at the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC) in Hanoi on June 4, 2012. US Defence Secretary Leon Panetta arrived in Hanoi on June 3 after visiting the former port at Cam Ranh Bay used by US forces in the Vietnam War in a highly symbolic trip that reflects Washington's efforts to deepen ties with its former enemy as it seeks to counter China's growing power.

AFP PHOTO

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EU ready to restore border checks to keep migrants out

LUXEMBOURG (AFP) - European Union nations in a landmark move yesterday agreed to enable countries to temporarily restore border checks in the visa-free Schengen area in the case of a surge of illegal migrants.

Shrugging off opposition from Brussels and triggering fury in the European parliament, home affairs ministers unanimously agreed to dust off the border posts should there be excessive pressure from would-be migrants.

France and Germany, which had argued in favour of the change, have said the measure would only apply in extreme cases.

New French socialist Interior Minister Manuel Valls, taking part in his first such talks, said he had backed the accord because it allowed "addressing serious situations that can arise" such as many people fleeing a worsening crisis in Syria.

Currently, the 26-nation Schengen treaty allows renewal of border controls in case of a terror threat or security threats thrown up by sports or other events. Poland for instance is restoring checks for the Euro 2012 tournament.

But under the new rules, a state within the Schengen area could reimpose border controls for six months, renewable for another six, "when the control of an external border is no longer ensured due to exceptional circumstances".

"The situation on the Greek-Turkish border shows that we need a very clear action mechanism in the Schengen area," said the Austrian minister, Johanna Mikl-Leitner.

Illegal immigration has emerged as one of Europe's most sensitive political issues amid the debt crisis, slow growth and mounting unemployment.

But there was anger both in Brussels and among MEPs.

"Free movement within an area without internal borders is a pillar of the European Union -- one of its most tangible benefits," said parliamentary president Martin Schulz.

"Disappointed by lack of European ambition among member states", said the EU's home affairs commissioner Cecilia Malmstroem, who opposed the move.

She repeatedly argued that Schengen was never designed to control migration but to ease

freedom of movement.

The EU's Frontex agency in charge of manning borders said in a report that registered illegal crossings on the outer borders of the Schengen area shot up by 35 percent in 2011.

Numbers rose from 104,000 in 2010 to 141,000 the following year, largely due to flows across the Mediterranean from the Arab Spring upheavals.

But the second biggest hotspot was the border between Greece and Turkey, which saw 55,000 detections last year.

With low-cost flights to Turkey on the increase as war, chaos and poverty send people fleeing hot-spots from Afghanistan and Pakistan to Somalia, the flow is forecast to increase.

Responding to a rise in anti-immigrant sentiment, France and Germany in April sent Schengen counterparts a joint letter calling for drastic change.

That was before the May election of socialist President Francois Hollande, who stepped into the shoes of conservative Nicolas Sarkozy. And Brussels had hoped the new French leadership would shift sides.

US strips seaweed from Japanese tsunami wreck

PORTLAND (AFP) - US officials yesterday ordered Japanese seaweed and barnacles to be stripped from the tsunami-wrecked dock washed up on an Oregon beach, to guard against "possible invasive species" from Japan.

The 66-foot (20-meter) long rectangular structure, made of concrete and metal, landed on a high tide early Tuesday on Agate beach, near the town of Newport some 100 miles (160 kilometers) southwest of Portland.

The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) contacted Japanese diplomats, who confirmed it was from the March 11, 2011 tsunami, and had drifted 5,500 miles (8,850 kilometers) across the Pacific.

Yesterday morning, the

OPRD said: "The dock sitting on the sand at Agate Beach is covered with marine organisms. Some are native, but others are specific to the waters of Japan."

"As a precaution against possible invasive species, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife is coordinating a group of volunteers to remove the organisms from the dock starting Thursday morning."

Salt water-dependent organisms will be removed from the beach, it said.

"Among the exotic species are different kinds of mussels, barnacles and marine algae. One invasive marine algae in particular -- *Undaria pinnatifida*, commonly called wakame -- is present on the structure."

US military chief pledges to probe Afghan deaths

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The head of the US military pledged yesterday to investigate a NATO air strike in Afghanistan and take "appropriate actions" after accounts at least 15 civilians were killed.

"We do our very best to avoid civilian casualties and so this investigation will try to determine if there were civilian casualties," said General Martin Dempsey, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

"Then we will take the appropriate actions," he told reporters in Washington.

An AFP correspondent said he saw at least 15 bodies that had been loaded Wednesday into five vehicles and driven by villagers to Pol-i-Alam, the capital of Logar province south of Kabul.

Deputy provincial police chief Rais Khan Sadeq Abdulrahimzai told AFP that at least 18 civilians, including women and children, were killed in the air strike, and that seven Taliban insurgents died.

NATO forces in Afghanistan said that they ordered the air strike and killed "multiple" insurgents after troops came under attack with small-arms fire and a grenade.

Guyana oil exploration stirs up Venezuela border dispute

CARACAS - Venezuela's opposition accused the government on Wednesday of turning a blind eye to neighboring Guyana's oil exploration in a border region claimed by Venezuela, potentially inflaming a territorial dispute that dates back more than a century.

The conflict was stirred up in recent days by local media reports that Exxon Mobil Corp, in partnership with Royal Dutch Shell, is exploring for crude off the coast of the disputed Essequibo region.

The two South American nations squabbled over the area, which is the size of the U.S. State of Georgia, for much of the 20th century. Venezuela calls it a "reclamation zone," but in practice it functions as Guyanese territory.

Chavez to launch Venezuela candidacy in person

CARACAS - Venezuela's President Hugo Chavez will personally go to register his candidacy for the October 7 election on Monday, officials said, dampening rumors he might be too unwell from cancer or considering a successor. Chavez, 57, wants re-election in the South American OPEC member despite a year-long battle against an unspecified cancer.

Chavez's rival, young state governor Henrique Capriles, is the opposition's best hope for defeating him at the ballot box in the last 13 years, but is trailing him in polls.



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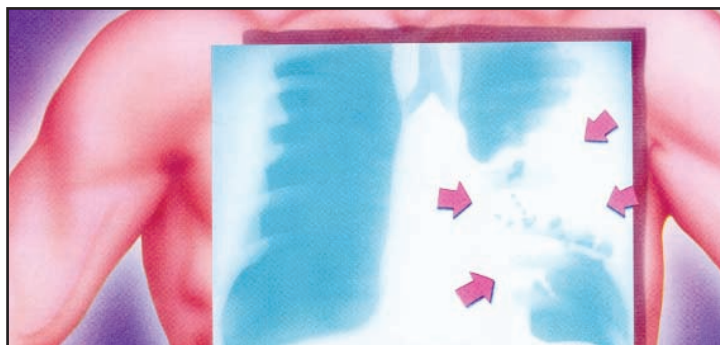
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Health & Living

More than 50 sick in Legionnaires' outbreak



LONDON (AFP) - Edinburgh is battling a deadly outbreak of Legionnaires' disease, with the number of confirmed and suspected cases now standing at 51, Scotland's health minister said Thursday.

Officials are still trying to track down the source of Scotland's worst outbreak since the 1980s, which has hit the southwest of the capital, killing a 56-year-old man.

The number of confirmed cases has risen to 24, while a further 27 people are suspected to have the illness, Scottish Health Secretary Nicola Sturgeon told the parliament in Edinburgh.

Of the total 51 people, 14 are being treated in intensive care.

Sturgeon warned that more cases are likely to emerge in the coming days.

"Across Europe, outbreaks are not uncommon, with dozens of outbreaks per

annum and thousands of cases," she told lawmakers.

"However, outbreaks of the size we are currently seeing here in Edinburgh are rare in Scotland -- the last time we had an outbreak of this scale was, I understand, in the 1980s in Glasgow."

The disease, caused by the bacteria Legionella, leads to a severe form of pneumonia which can be fatal.

It is contracted through inhalation of contaminated water droplets and is not known to be transmitted from person to person.

After an initial case came to light a week ago, a second was confirmed on Saturday, and two more on Sunday.

Most outdoor outbreaks of Legionnaires' are linked to industrial cooling towers, and Sturgeon said action was taken on Sunday and Monday to treat these.

China faces 'serious' epidemic of drug-resistant TB

WASHINGTON (AFP) - China faces a "serious epidemic" of drug-resistant tuberculosis according to the first-ever nationwide estimate of the size of the problem there, said a US-published study on Wednesday.

"In 2007, one third of the patients with new cases of tuberculosis and one half of the patients with previously treated tuberculosis had drug-resistant disease," said the study in the New England Journal of Medicine.

Even more, the prevalence of multi-drug resistant (MDR) TB in new cases (5.7 percent) was nearly twice the global average, said the study.

Using World Health Organization figures as a basis for comparison, "China has the highest annual number of cases of MDR tuberculosis in the world -- a quarter of the cases worldwide," it added.

The data came from a survey of more than 4,600 Chinese people who were recently diagnosed or treated for TB.

In China, over a million new tuberculosis infections occur each year, a large chunk of the estimated nine million cases worldwide annually.

Known formally as Mycobacterium tuberculosis, TB spreads through the air when infected people cough up bacteria. TB kills about 1.5 million people worldwide each year.

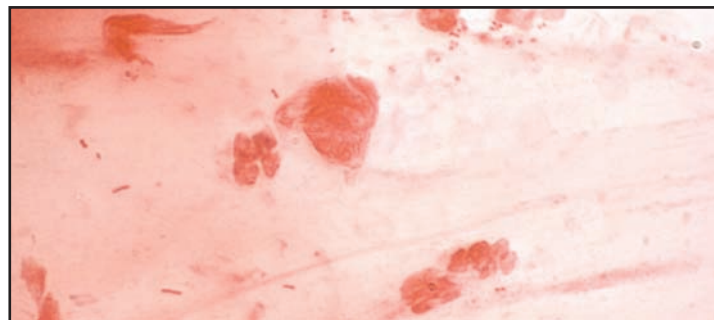
Often it can be cured with antibiotics, though drug availability is limited in the developing world and sometimes patients do not follow the entire regimen of treatment, which can encourage the development of resistant strains.

According to an accompanying editorial by Johns Hopkins University infectious disease specialist Richard Chaisson, the growth of drug-resistant TB presents an "enormous challenge."

Even more concerning was the finding that most of the 110,000 drug-resistant cases were in people newly diagnosed with disease, suggesting that the virulent bacteria are being transmitted from person to person and not developing solely as a result of a person prematurely stopping treatment.

Chaisson said the findings highlight the need for faster testing, and for new cases of TB to be tested for signs of drug resistance, not just recurrent forms.

Drug-resistant gonorrhoea on the rise



GENEVA (AFP) - The World Health Organization warned of a spreading resistance to drugs used to treat the sexually transmitted disease gonorrhoea.

Millions of people with the condition may be at risk of running out of treatment options unless urgent action is taken, the United Nations agency said.

Several countries, including Australia, Britain, France, Japan, Norway, and Sweden have reported cases of resistance to cephalosporin antibiotics -- the last treatment option against gonorrhoea, which affects an estimated 106 million people.

The WHO has called for greater vigilance on the correct use of antibiotics and more research into alternative treatments.

Resistance can be caused by the overuse and poor quality of

antibiotics.

We are very concerned," said Manjula Lusti-Narasimhan, from the WHO's reproductive health unit, "as there are no new therapeutic drugs in development."

"If gonococcal infections become untreatable, the health implications are significant."

Untreated gonorrhoea can cause infertility in both men and women.

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Sci-Tech

Revamped Google maps goes offline for mobile



Peter Birch, Google Product Manager for Google Earth, shows an image of new 3D map rendering during a news conference about Google Maps.

SAN FRANCISCO (AFP) - Google unveiled a revamped maps program this week which allows mobile users to use the service offline in places where they lack an Internet connection.

The service, which will be available soon on devices powered by Google's Android operating system, allows users to select an area and save a local map which can be viewed when a user does not have a data connection.

This can be useful for people traveling to international locations where they do not want to pay Internet roaming charges, or for situations when someone is underground or on

a plane without data access.

Chen demonstrated by saving a section of a map of London, which would still retain interactive features even without going online.

She zoomed in on the map, saying, "As we start moving in, the map remains clear, even down to street level."

The Google upgrade comes amid widespread reports the widely used maps program will be booted off devices sold by Apple, which is developing its own mapping service.

Google also unveiled improvements to its Street View, with access to more areas where cars cannot go, and a more detailed three-dimen-

sional Google Earth map which allows users to view as if they were flying over a location.

Greg Sterling, an analyst at Opus Research, said Google is trying to protect its turf in maps.

While Google does not generate much income directly from maps, it often ties into Internet search which does generate advertising dollars.

Sterling said Apple, which could announce its own maps program as the default for the iPhone as early as next week, would in theory be able to tie its mapping service to the Siri personal assistant, which could supplant Google in searching for businesses.

Powerful 6.0 quake strikes southern Peru

LIMA (AFP) - A powerful magnitude 6.0 quake shook southern Peru on Thursday, US seismologists said, with Peru authorities indicating no immediate reports of casualties or damage.

The US Geological Survey said the temblor had a depth of 99.7 kilometers (62 miles). It struck at 11:03 am (1603 GMT) some 117 kilometers (73 miles) west-northwest of the city of Arequipa.

Many people rushed out of homes and businesses and onto the street in search of safety from the quake, which was also felt in the neighboring Ica and Moquegua regions. Telephone lines were cut temporarily.

The National Civil Defense Institute said it was reviewing the condition of homes in the region, particularly in areas on the periphery of the quake, where many houses are built of adobe and other less-than-sturdy materials.

So far this year there have been more than 80 medium-intensity earthquakes in Peru, which is on what geologists call the Pacific Ring of Fire - an area with intense seismic activity that produces around 85 percent of the world's quakes.

The latest quake came just a week after Peru carried out a nationwide safety drill to see how authorities would respond if the capital region were struck by a cataclysmic magnitude-eight earthquake and resulting tsunami.



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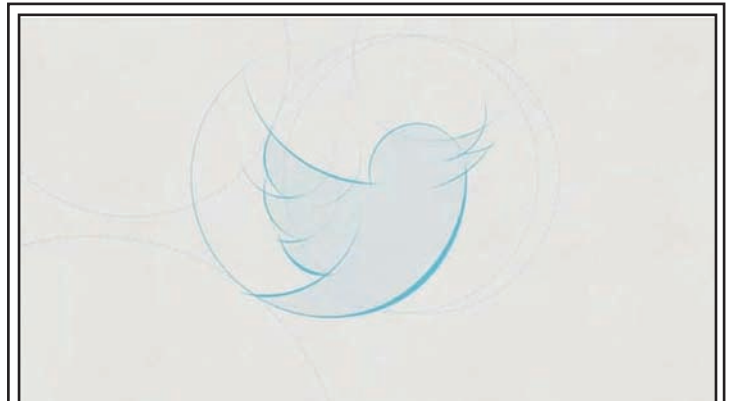
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AGATE BEACH : This handout photograph obtained courtesy of the Oregon Parks and Recreation (OPRD) shows a metal placard bearing Japanese writing found attached to the dock that washed ashore at Agate Beach on June 5, 2012 in Oregon. Cast adrift by Japan's killer tsunami, the dock washed up on the Oregon beach 15 months later, washed in with the high tide on Agate beach, 100 miles (160 kilometers) southwest of Portland. Local authorities contacted the Japanese consulate in Portland, who confirmed that it was from the March 11, 2011 tsunami, thrown up by a massive earthquake off Japan's coast 5,500 miles across the Pacific. Four floating docks were washed away by the tsunami. This is one of them," deputy consul general Hirofumi Murabayashi told



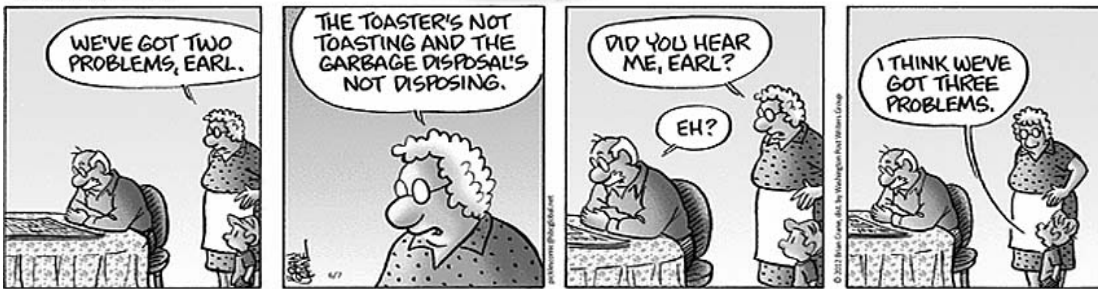
SAN FRANCISCO: After six years Twitter unveiled a new "Twitterbird" Wednesday which will be the new trademark symbol for the fast-growing company. The bird, synonymous with the microblogging service, now sports an upturned beak and fuller wings. The new bird "grows out of love for ornithology, design within creative constraints, and simple geometry," said creative director Doug Bowman. Twitter, which allows its members to post brief comments, links or pictures, claims to have more than 140 million active users, with the largest number being in the United States. A recent survey found one out of seven Americans who go online use Twitter and eight per cent do it every day.

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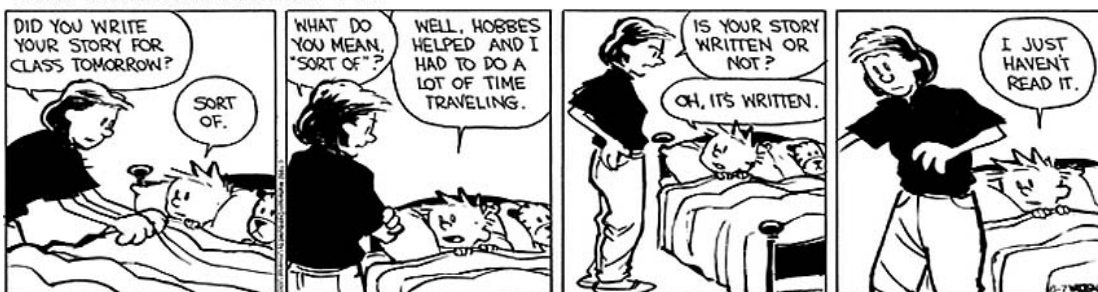
PICKLES



MOMMA



CALVIN and HOBBS



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ACROSS

1. Circle segment
4. Fountain and Seeger
9. Military rank (abbr.)
12. Arthur of "Maude"
13. Similar
14. Final letter
15. Shut out
16. Mature
17. Sound from Sandy
18. Warns
20. Walk proudly
22. Hoover's gp.
23. Captain Hook's pirate
25. Light rainfall
28. Leah's son
32. Boston cream
33. Tumbler or goblet
35. Nothing
36. Gorillas
38. Radical change
40. Former L.A. team
42. Pool stick
43. Punch at wildly
46. Brass instruments
49. Author Deighton
50. Title holder
53. Certain grain
54. Mel of Cooperstown
55. Morally admirable
56. Prior to (prefix)

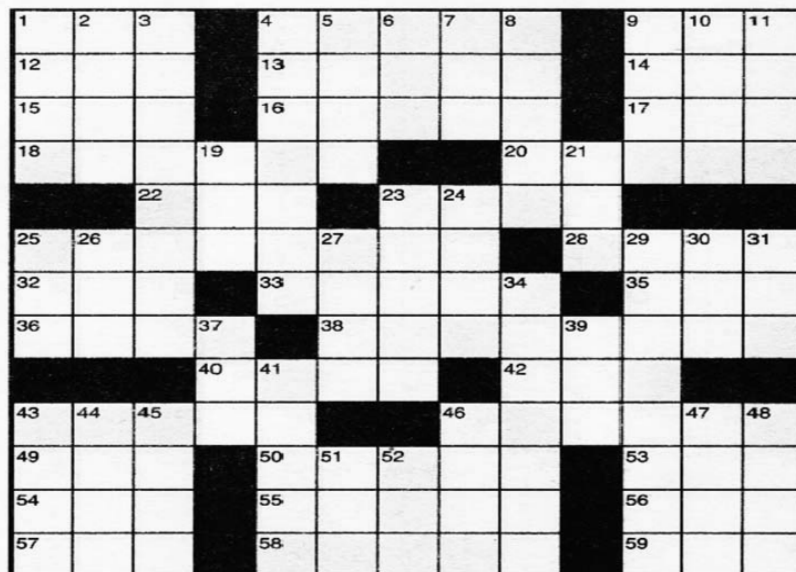
57. "Kilroy — here"
58. Sheep's relatives
59. New York time (abbr.)

DOWN

1. Swedish rock group
2. — estate
3. Happy-go-lucky
4. Leaving
5. Whitney et al.
6. Hint
7. Get by
8. Sound judgment
9. "Terrible" Ivan, for

10. Neighbor of Bolivia
11. Not right
19. Stat for Gehrig
21. Address book abbr.
23. Open-handed blows
24. Gym clothes material
25. Makeover locale
26. Card spot
27. Heidi of "Project Runway"
29. Letter holder
30. Itinerary word
31. "— Cry

34. Fastens
37. — Lanka
39. Popular vacation mo.
41. Accompanying
43. Stream
44. "I — Song Go Out of My Heart" (2 wds.)
45. Insect pests
46. Dress part
47. Jumbo's features
48. Proofreading notation
51. Court
52. Basketball organization (abbr.)



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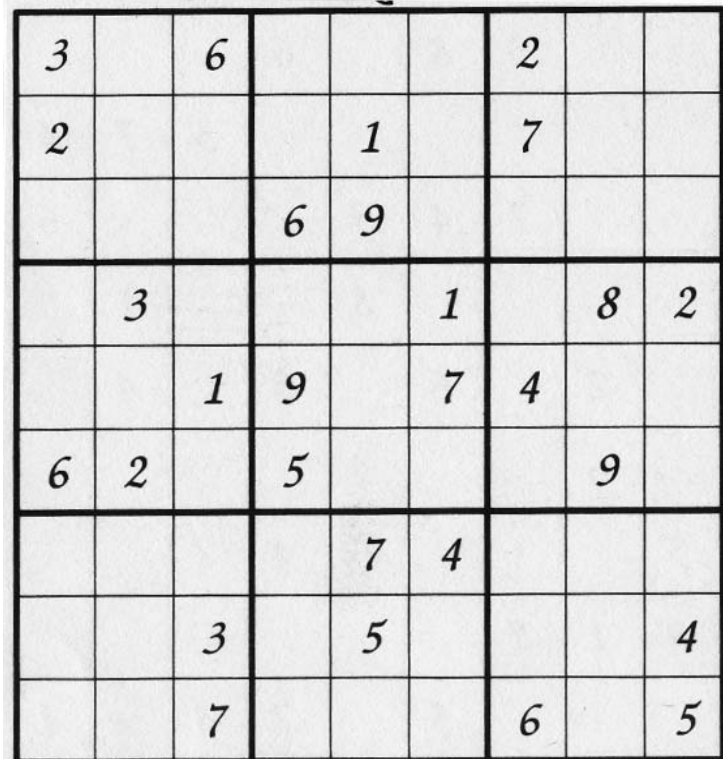
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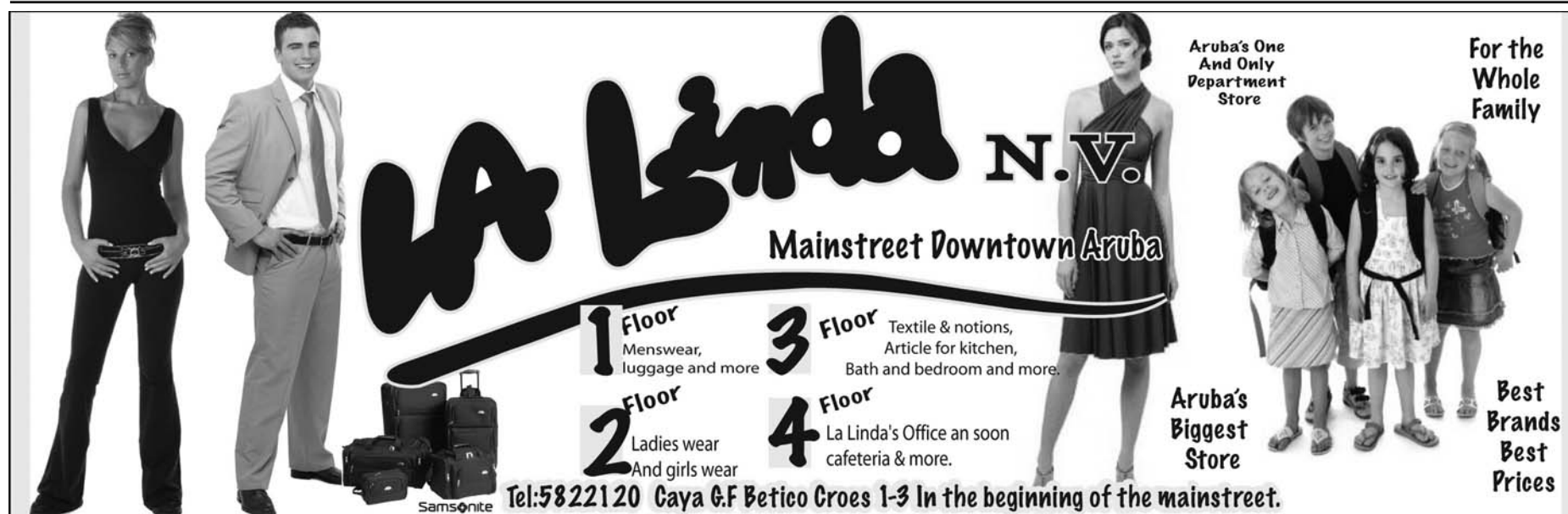
Sudoku



SOLUTION

5	2	9	6	1	2	8	7	4
7	4	8	9	5	2	1	6	3
1	6	7	4	8	2	9	5	3
2	8	1	7	3	6	5	4	9
9	5	4	2	6	1	8	7	3
3	8	5	1	9	7	6	4	2
8	7	2	6	9	5	4	1	3
6	9	3	1	4	8	7	2	5
4	1	5	3	7	9	6	8	2

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FINANCE



BANGLADESH, Dhaka: Bangladeshis rally to raise public awareness regarding district level budget spending in Dhaka on June 7, 2012. Bangladesh unveiled its annual budget for 2012/13, drawing immediate criticism from some economists who said it was unrealistic just months after the country was bailed out by the IMF. The 1.92-trillion-taka (USD 23.5-billion) spending plan for the year beginning on July 1 forecasts a 20-percent hike in spending, with new public investments earmarked for transport and power infrastructure. (AFP PHOTO)

Officials: Fed may need to take new action

WASHINGTON-- The U.S. economic recovery risks being derailed and the Federal Reserve might have to take action to support growth, Fed officials said.

Yesterday Fed Chairman

Ben Bernanke added his voice to three other high-ranking Fed officials who have recently suggested a policy change is in order. Bernanke's remarks fell under the category of a hint of a possible change.



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U.S.A.	USD	1.77	1.78	1.80
Dutch Antilles	ANG	98.00	100.00	100.20
Canada	CAD	1.72	1.74	1.76
Britain	GBP	2.71	2.76	2.82
Switzerland	CHF	186.58	187.30	188.10
Netherlands	EUR	222.29	224.32	226.58
Sweden	SEK	24.02	24.74	25.54
Denmark	DKK	29.21	29.93	30.73
Norway	NOK	28.59	29.31	30.11
Japan	JPY	222.12	224.14	226.40

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Beauty costs: French tax man targeting tummy tucks



PARIS (AFP) - France's wealthy could take it on the nose if the French tax man gets his way and cosmetic surgery becomes subject to the value added tax.

France's new Socialist government has promised to tax the rich, and the tax authorities are looking at going after expensive cosmetic surgery such as tummy tucks, liposuction and breast enhancements that so far have escaped the country's 19.6 percent VAT tax.

French tax authorities have issued a finding that operations for esthetic rather than health purposes should be taxed and the finance ministry is currently studying which procedures to target.

France's financial inspector general has calculated that the government needs to find 3.9 billion euros (\$4.9 billion) each year if the country is to keep its promise to bring its budget back into balance by 2017.

Fitch slashes Spain credit rating by three notches

MADRID (AFP) - Fitch Ratings slashed Spain's sovereign credit rating by three notches yesterday, citing ballooning estimates of the cost of a banking crisis, mushrooming debt and a deepening recession.

The long-term rating was chopped to BBB from A and left with a negative outlook, said Fitch, swooping as expectations mounted that the Europe Union would have to throw a lifeline to Spanish banks.

"The likely cost of restructuring and recapitalising the Spanish banking sector is now estimated by Fitch to be around 60 billion euros (\$75 billion) and as high as 100 billion euros in a more severe stress scenario," it said.

That was more than double its previous estimate that the banking sector, stricken by its vast exposure to the collapsed property market, would need 30 billion euros.

A bank rescue would also push up the state's total accumulated debt at a rapid pace, Fitch said, warning that gross general public debt would likely peak at 95 percent of total economic output in 2015.

"Spain is forecast to remain in recession through the remainder of this year and 2013 compared to Fitch's previous expectation that the economy would benefit from a mild recovery in 2013," the agency said.

The country's level of foreign debt also made it "especially vulnerable" to contagion from the crisis in Greece, where a general election on June 17 could see the country forced out of the eurozone if a new government refuses to abide by austerity provisions agreed in return for a bailout.

At the same time, Spain faces rising costs to raise money on the markets, mak-

ing international bailout for the financial sector more likely, it said.

Spain raised 2.07 billion euros in a bond auction earlier in the day but had to pay a high price, with the 10-year bonds fetching more than 6.0 percent -- a rate widely regarded as unsustainable over the longer term.

Meanwhile in Brussel, the head of the Eurogroup finance ministers Jean-Claude Juncker, said yesterday that he eurozone will recapitalise Spain's struggling banking system if asked.

"If it came to it and Spain asked for support for its banking sector, that would obviously be done," Juncker told reporters, although he stressed that "as there is no request, it is too early to spend time on figures" for any financial aid.

Juncker, who is also Luxembourg prime minister, spoke as he left a conference in Brussels and just as Fitch Ratings slashed Spain's sovereign credit rating by three notches to BBB, citing the country's banking crisis, mushrooming debt and recession.

Juncker refused to discuss the amount that may be required or the kind of vehicle could be used, saying Europe was now in a critical period.

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YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer



Keeping the tradition of the Feast of San Juan and Dera Gay alive... in the month of June!



June is the month to celebrate San Juan and Dera Gay! This celebration dates back to the 19th century when Aruba first celebrated the Feast of Saint John and Bury the Cock (English translation) as a feast of harvest. In history the celebration was on the 23rd of June when farmers ignited everything remaining from their harvesting in order to make room and prepare for the period of sowing (agriculture).

The tradition, however,

changed to become the night of the 24th of June as the time to burn everything that could not be used (all the remaining debris from the harvest). This was all set on fire and would be burned.

The tradition of burning everything is no longer as simple and trouble-free as it was back in those days. Today, our homes are built close to each other and there are more homes and people. Also, because there are so few farmers with harvest debris to burn, we have been burning old tires, batteries, plastic material, tree remnants, etc. and these cause great disturbance and annoyance to neighbors because of the smoke and fumes these fires cause. What's more, the effect to the environment is devastating

Hence, today we are encouraged to not burn fires and alarm the fire brigade or the police who are called in constantly to deal with the problems these fires cause. Today's fires can cause damage to the environment, personal property and to the health of so many people.

Today the law strictly prohibits the lighting of any type of fire outdoors. Violation will incur stiff monetary fines and/or 12, 15 or even 20 years of prison sentences.

The government kindly requests everyone to celebrate our Dia di San Jaun and Dera Gay as a harmless folkloric feast, without the dangerous and prohibitive fires.

The Minister of Social Affairs hopes that the celebration of these feasts will continue to live on in each barrio and even grow bigger. Our young people need to experience these traditions so they can keep them alive for future generations. The Department of Culture is doing a good job of bringing Dera Gay into our schools every year.

Elvis Lives! US firm to create 'virtual' Presley

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - An Oscar-winning US firm is to create a "virtual" Elvis Presley to bring the King of Rock and Roll back to life for today's music audiences, it announced Wednesday.

Digital Domain Media Group (DDMG), which helped late rapper Tupak Shakur rise from the grave in an eye-popping music festival performance recently, has signed a deal to resurrect the swivel-hipped music icon.

DDMG and CORE Media Group will produce "a series of 'virtual' Elvis Presley likenesses for a range of entertainment projects - from shows and appearances to film, TV and multi-platform productions throughout the world," they said.

DDMG boss John Textor called Presley "the most recognized performer on the planet," adding: "We are thrilled to have been chosen to bring new performances and original shows where fans can have their own, new experiences of Elvis."

Presley, who died in 1977, is a music icon on the scale of Michael Jackson, but the



length of time since his death means that younger generations never saw him live, and only know him from films, videos and songs.

The singer shot to fame with "Blue Suede Shoes" on his first studio album "Elvis Presley" in 1954, selling more than a billion albums since then, and continues to out-earn many other living celebrities.

The digital production company, its work and employees have won numerous awards including seven from Oscars organizers the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, according to its website.

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EIN GEDI, Israel : Tourists enjoy mineral-rich mud at the Israeli Dead Sea resort of Ein Gedi .
AFP/Photo

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Gold Coast Aruba: Great savings for large families on holiday rentals



Aruba's newest and most innovative gated community has enjoyed steady sales since breaking ground, as many are finding the secure surroundings and outstanding amenities are just what they were looking for before considering purchasing property on the island. Some owners are using the villas or town homes as vacation retreats rather than full time and are taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their 'home away from home' in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," noted Gold Coast developer Fito Croes. To assist in the demand for more complete facilities for groups and families, famed hotelier Ed Malone has been placed in charge of the rental program.

Staying at Gold Coast is a very attractive proposition for those traveling with groups that would require multiple hotel rooms. Two and three bedroom Villas or Town Homes accommodate large numbers and offer extensive amenities along with a final cost resulting in considerable savings. The community is minutes to the best beaches and all the casino action, and offers a quiet and secluded getaway with two swimming pools and specialized services with more on the way, such as a fitness room, tennis courts and mini-mall. Ed can arrange maid service, babysitters, caterers, airline pick-up

and drop-off; they even boast a shopping service to stock your shelves before arrival.

Gold Coast accommodations are elegant and spacious, offering privacy for parents or a few couples.

high-speed fiber-optic Internet connection, individual washer/dryer, and are fully air-conditioned. Cribs, high chairs and hair dryers are available for a modest fee. Concierge services to arrange



Beautifully appointed kitchens and bathrooms grace each abode; barbecues and lounges are provided for friendly cookouts and truly savoring the island life. All homes come with cable TV,

rental cars, spa appointments, activities and restaurant reservations are all part of the package.

Check-in for your holiday escape is conducted in the comfort of your vacation home, not while waiting on line at check-in desk. In every way, Gold Coast seeks to pamper their guests while providing them with the feeling of being in a cozy community, not the normally bustling resort, particularly experienced during the major holidays. If you wish an optimal vacation experience with great savings, visit their website: www.goldcoastaruba.com to get acquainted with the community and the layout, details and availability of accommodations, or call 586-2200 to talk personally to a Gold Coast representative.



Adorable and affordable; 5 Burgers Aruba offers an island twist to the great American Burger

Expatriates from Boston, Massachusetts, residing on Aruba, Aaron and Rosie Walisever are living their dream: a home on paradise while welcoming all and sundry to their proud undertaking, 5 Burgers Aruba. Some may be quite well acquainted with a nationally known U.S. franchise bearing the name "5", and patrons can expect the same great quality between the buns, but an expanded menu and Rosie and Aaron's fanatical dedication to giving their customers what they really want has resulted in a unique menu.



Rosie and Aaron love their Burger too



Gouda Burger 2

"You never get a second chance to make a first impression," comments Aaron; and upon entering 5 Burgers Aruba in The Village Mall in Palm Beach, one is struck by utterly spotless surroundings and a smiling, friendly, attentive service crew. Of course, the main item on the menu is burgers-the way they were meant to be, thick and juicy, made fresh daily and 100% pure beef, the kind that made the hamburger a traditional American treat.

Prices vary only slightly between regular and small (basically 2 patties or 1) with specialty items such as Gouda Burger, Farmer's Burger, Man Burger (almost 12 ounces of choice beef), and a Western Burger with crispy onion rings and BBQ sauce. All of these can be personalized with an incredible array of toppings, (mushrooms, jalapeño peppers, bacon, cheese, lettuce, tomato... whatever the list goes on) at absolutely no extra cost.

5 Burger portions are ENORMOUS! Aaron suggests that even their small serving of fries, which are made from hand-cut fresh

Idaho potatoes, is enough to be shared by two. He was very amused to watch a famous French chef demonstrating the best way to make fried potatoes on a gourmet cooking show and could only comment "He stole my recipe!" Try them the English way-with vinegar, and you'll wonder how you ever ate fries without it. This same 5-star chef also swears by Gouda as the best topping for the ideal gourmet cheeseburger.

If you are a fan of crispy friend onion rings, as we are at THE MORNING NEWS, you cannot leave there without trying their secret recipe batter-dipped gourmet rings, made from fresh, not frozen onions. Unquestionably, the best we have had anywhere, and for those that like a little spice, the fried jalapeños are a real treat. Aaron and Rosie have expanded their menu to accommodate certain tastes and dietary needs; they offer a tasty grilled chicken sandwich as well.

5 Burgers Aruba is open for lunch & dinner - daily hours are Noon to 10-ish; delivery is available to both the high-rise and low-rise hotel and beach district for orders over \$50. Enjoy a great lunch without ever leaving the beach by calling 586-3904. However, we suggest you stop by and enjoy their authentic, heartfelt hospitality; it is not unusual for the owners when things are not too busy, to sit and chat while sharing their knowledge of the island. Totally yummy and fun plus a great deal for a quality burger, they are definitely worth a visit

Euro 2012 UEFA European Championship

European and world champions Spain will defend their continental title in Poland and Ukraine

PLAYER OF THE TOURNAMENT

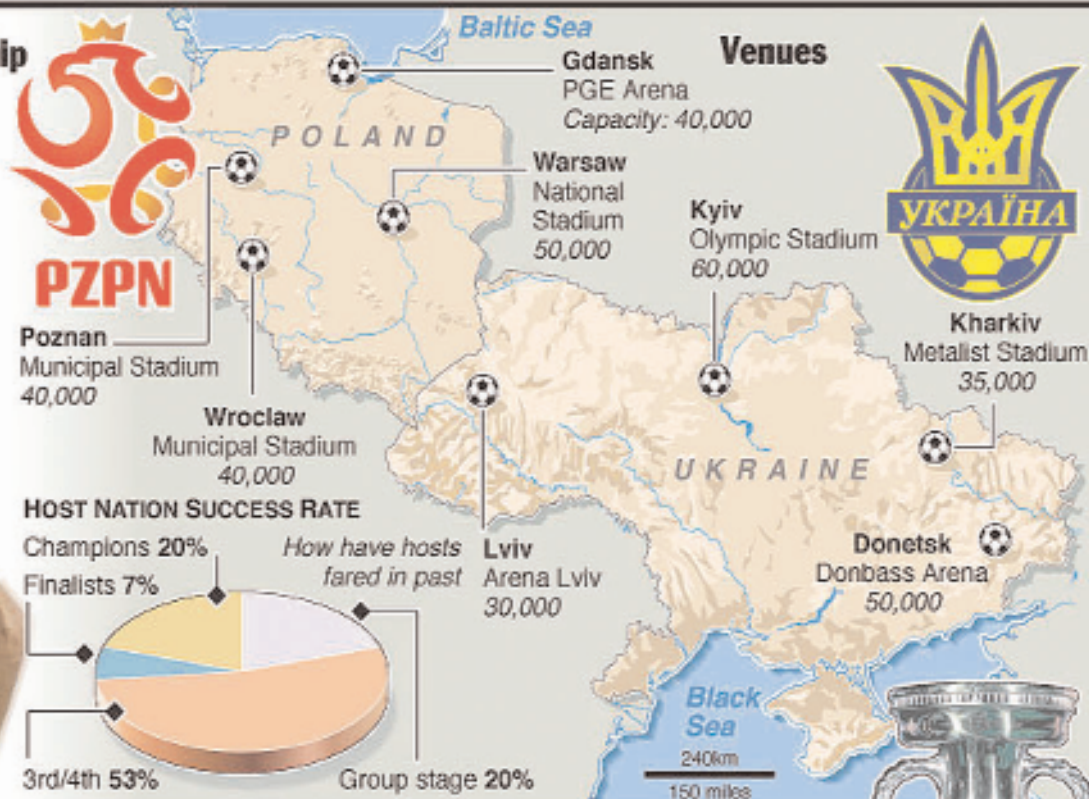
2008 Xavi Hernandez ESP
2004 Theo Zagorakis GRE
2000 Zinedine Zidane FRA
1996 Matthias Sammer GER

Xavi Hernandez – heart of Spain's midfield, five-times nominated for FIFA World Player of the Year



Spain are second team to hold both European and World titles after France in 1998/2000

Tango 12 – new generation of adidas' official matchball



Competing nations



Of the 16 teams at Euro 2012, 12 have reached the final in the past. Only Poland, England, Sweden and Ireland have yet to make a mark in European Championships



Henri Delaunay trophy named after the tournament's originator. Height 60 cm, weight 8kg

Group stage schedule

All matches at 12 noon and 2:45 pm (Aruba Local time) except last day group matches when all kick off at 2:45 p.m.

A				B				C				D			
June				June				June				June			
8	Poland	Greece	Warsaw	9	Netherlands	Denmark	Kharkiv	10	Spain	Italy	Gdansk	11	France	England	Donetsk
	Russia	Czech Rep	Wroclaw		Germany	Portugal	Lviv		Ireland	Croatia	Poznan		Ukraine	Sweden	Kyiv
12	Greece	Czech Rep	Wroclaw	13	Denmark	Portugal	Lviv	14	Italy	Croatia	Poznan	15	Ukraine	France	Donetsk
	Poland	Russia	Warsaw		Netherlands	Germany	Kharkiv		Spain	Ireland	Gdansk		Sweden	England	Kyiv
16	Greece	Russia	Warsaw	17	Portugal	Netherlands	Kharkiv	18	Croatia	Spain	Gdansk	19	Sweden	France	Kyiv
	Czech Rep	Poland	Wroclaw		Denmark	Germany	Lviv		Italy	Ireland	Poznan		England	Ukraine	Donetsk
A	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	B	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1								1							
2								2							
3								3							
4								4							

Quarter-finals

June 21, 20:45 Warsaw

A1
B2

Semi-final

June 27, 20:45 Donetsk

June 23, 20:45 Donetsk

C1
D2

Top two teams in each group progress to knock-out stage
If scores level after 90 minutes, knock-out stage matches go into extra-time.
Matches remaining level decided on penalties

Final

July 1, 20:45 Olympic Stadium Kyiv

Semi-final

June 28, 20:45 Warsaw

Quarter-finals

June 22, 20:45 Gdansk

B1
A2

June 24, 20:45 Kyiv

D1
C2

Final results

Year	Host nation	Winner	Score	Runner-up
1960	USSR	France	2-1	Yugoslavia
1964	Spain	Spain	2-1	USSR
1968	Italy	Italy	1-1 (2-0 replay)	Yugoslavia
1972	W. Germany	Belgium	3-0	USSR

Roll call of champions

1976	Czechoslovakia	W. Germany	2-2 (5-3 pens)	Yugoslavia
1980	W. Germany	Italy	2-1	Belgium
1984	France	France	2-0	Spain
1988	Netherlands	Germany	2-0	USSR
1992	Denmark	Sweden	2-0	Germany

1996	Germany	Czech Republic	2-1	England
2000	France	Netherlands/Belgium	2-1	Italy
2004	Greece	Portugal	1-0	Portugal
2008	Spain	Austria/Switzerland	1-0	Germany

Source: UEFA

Original pictures: Getty Images

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French Open Semi-Finals Women

PARIS (AFP) - Maria Sharapova and Sara Errani will contest the French Open final on Saturday in what will be a first ever meeting between the two 25-year-olds.

Second-seeded Russian Sharapova won through with a 6-3, 6-3 win over fourth seed Petra Kvitova of the Czech Republic, while 21st seed Errani of Italy ousted Australian sixth seed Samantha Stosur 7-5, 1-6, 6-3.

The stakes could hardly be higher for Sharapova, who is already assured of regaining the world number one spot she last held in 2008 before a



Maria Sharapova and Sara Errani

shoulder injury nearly wrecked her career.

The 2004 Wimbledon, 2006 US Open and 2008 Australian Open champion, will become just the 10th woman to complete a career Grand Slam if she takes Saturday's final, her first at Roland Garros.

Errani, who was not rated among the favourites for the title coming into Paris despite winning three claycourt build-up tournaments, will be play-

ing in her first Grand Slam final.

A win would make her just the second Italian woman to win the French Open title after Francesca Schiavone two years ago.

Sharapova will start as a strong favourite and if she can reproduce the kind of form she showed against Wimbledon champion Kvitova, Errani could struggle to counter her power.

MLB Standings

American League					National League				
East	W	L	Pct	GB	East	W	L	Pct	GB
BALTIMORE	32	24	.571	--	WASHINGTON	32	23	.582	--
YANKEES	31	24	.564	0.5	MIAMI	31	25	.554	1.5
TAMPA	31	24	.554	1.0	ATLANTA	31	25	.554	1.5
TORONTO	30	26	.536	2.0	NY METS	32	26	.552	1.5
BOSTON	28	28	.500	4.0	PHILADELPHIA	28	31	.475	6.0
Central	W	L	Pct	GB	Central	W	L	Pct	GB
CHICAGO	31	25	.554	--	CINCINNATI	31	24	.564	--
CLEVELAND	30	26	.536	1.0	PITTSBURG	28	27	.509	3.0
DETROIT	26	31	.456	5.5	ST. LOUIS	29	28	.509	3.0
KANSAS	24	31	.436	6.5	MILWAUKEE	25	31	.446	6.5
MINNESOTA	22	34	.393	9.0	HOUSTON	24	32	.429	7.5
West	W	L	Pct	GB	West	W	L	Pct	GB
TEXAS	33	24	.579	--	LA DODGERS	37	21	.638	--
LA ANGELES	29	29	.500	4.5	SAN FRANCISCO	32	25	.561	4.5
SEATTLE	26	33	.441	8.0	ARIZONA	27	30	.474	9.5
OAKLAND	25	32	.439	8.0	COLORADO	24	32	.429	12.0
					SAN DIEGO	19	38	.333	17.5

x-Clinched Playoff Spot; y-Division Champ

NBA: Thunder roll... continued from page 16



Thabo Sefolosha #2 of the Oklahoma City Thunder takes the ball down court against Tim Duncan #21 of the San Antonio Spurs

The Celtics lead that series 3-2 and can wrap it up with a win Thursday at home.

"(An) amazing moment for him to play like this in this moment, in this setting. I wasn't going to take him out," Oklahoma City head coach Scott Brooks said of Durant.

Oklahoma City advances to their first NBA finals since 1996 when they were based in Seattle and called the Super-Sonics.

It proved to be too tall an order for the Spurs to try and come back against a younger and more athletic Thunder team.

Tony Parker, of France, finished with a team-high 29 points with 12 assists and Tim Duncan added 25 points and 14 rebounds for the Spurs who just a week ago looked unbeatable and hadn't lost in 50 days. It marks the first time all season long San Antonio had lost four straight.

Parker had the hot hand in

the first half but made just four-of-13 shots in the second half.

"It is very disappointing," Parker said. "We are all sad. Right now I am just thinking about the game. It is going to take some time to process it."

Stephen Jackson compiled 23 points with six three-pointers for the Spurs, who were the first team to lose a home game in the series.

During the lockout shortened regular season, San Antonio won two games and lost once to the Thunder. Oklahoma City beat the Spurs 108-96 in their first meeting of the season in January. The Spurs won the next two, 107-96 and 114-105.

The Spurs and Thunder rivalry goes all the way back to 1982 when the Thunder franchise was based in Seattle. This was the first playoff meeting between the two since Seattle moved to Oklahoma four years ago.

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Marline v.d. Linden
Asst. to the editors

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WARSAW) - Poland kicked off its Euro 2012 football festivities on Thursday with the launch of the Warsaw fan-zone, less than 24 hours before the whistle blows on the opening match between Greece and Poland. Thousands of Warsaw residents and fans from abroad crammed in to listen to live music and show some football cheer ahead of the 16-nation tournament hosted by Poland and Ukraine in June. Between 700,000 and one million fans are expected in Poland for the football showcase. Euro 2012 marks the first time the quadrennial football showcase will be held behind the former Iron Curtain and ex-communist Poland has hurried to update its infrastructure and roll out the welcome mat to fans.

AFP/Photo

NBA: Thunder roll over Spurs to reach final

OKLAHOMA CITY (AFP) - The Oklahoma City Thunder won their fourth straight game over a seven-day stretch Wednesday to reach the NBA finals with a come-from-behind 107-99 victory over the San Antonio Spurs.

Kevin Durant finished with 34 points and 14 rebounds and Russell Westbrook added 25 points as the Thunder rallied from a 15-point halftime deficit to stun the Spurs and capture the Western Conference title.

"This is the toughest game I have played since I have been here," Durant said. "I am glad we got this for Oklahoma City."

For much of the contest it appeared the series was headed to a game seven with San Antonio looking poised and controlling the play.

"We didn't want to go back to San Antonio. (At halftime)



we told our team to leave everything out on the floor," Durant said.

San Antonio were undefeated since April 11 before losing game three in Oklahoma City. That defeat snapped a 20-game San Antonio win streak and began a momentum shift.

James Harden came off the

bench to score 16 points and Serge Ibaka had 10 for the Thunder, who will meet the winner of the Boston and Miami series for the NBA championship.

continues on page 15

The Celtics lead that series 3-2 and can wrap it up with a win Thursday at home.

"(An) amazing moment for